

INFORMATION BULLETIN

JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT

Number: B98-96

Date: May 11, 1999

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TO: SERVICE DELIVERY AREA ADMINISTRATORS
PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS
JTPD PROGRAM OPERATORS
EDD JOB SERVICE OFFICE MANAGERS
JTPD STAFF

SUBJECT: DOL PUBLICATION OF PENSION AND HEALTH CARE Q&A FOR
DISLOCATED WORKERS

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration (PWBA) has published a pamphlet of frequently asked questions to ensure that dislocated workers are made aware of pension and health insurance issues and options during Rapid Response.

The PWBA's publication, *Pension and Health Care Coverage...Questions and Answers [Q&A] for Dislocated Workers*, is online and may be accessed through the "Publications/Reports" hyperlink on the PWBA's homepage at:

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/pwba/>

If you have any questions regarding the PWBA program, please contact David Lowe, DOL, Region IX at (415) 975-4639.

/S/ BILL BURKE
Assistant Deputy Director

Attachment

*****FORMATTED FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION*****

U.S. Department of Labor

Employment and Training Administration
PO. Box 193767
San Francisco, California 94119-3767

Reply to the Attention of: 9 OTES

SN: 688

JRB #: 05-99

TO: All State JTPA Liaisons
All Region IX Service Delivery Areas

FROM: ARMANDO QUIROZ
Regional Administrator

SUBJECT: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration Participation in
Rapid Response to Worker Dislocation

Purpose. To encourage States and SDAs to coordinate with the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration in order to ensure that dislocated workers are made aware of pension and health insurance issues and options during Rapid Response.

Background. Integrity of pension plans and continuation of health insurance are often important concerns of workers who face layoff or termination. Staff and written materials from the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration (PWBA) are available to assist States and SDAs/SSGs in addressing these concerns during Rapid Response to employers who are experiencing mass layoffs.

PWBA is the Federal agency responsible for oversight of employee pension and health benefit plans offered by private sector employers or unions. They enforce the fiduciary provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act or ERISA. It has jurisdiction over 700,000 pension plans and 4 million welfare plans (including some 2.5 million health plans) which, combined, contain more than \$3.5 trillion in assets. PWBA directly affects the livelihood of over 150 million people who participate in private sector pension and health plans.

The San Francisco Regional Office (SFRO) is one of ten Regional Offices of the PWBA. The SFRO's jurisdiction consists of Northern California and Nevada. SFRO's jurisdiction in California encompasses Kings County and north, with Kern County, San Luis Obispo County and other counties to the south belonging to the Los Angeles Regional Office (LARO).

PWBA's Los Angeles Office also has jurisdiction over southern California, Arizona, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Wake Island. LARO jurisdiction in California encompasses the ten southern counties, and includes the following service delivery areas (SDAs): City of Anaheim, Carson/Lomita/Torrance Consortium, Foothill,

Imperial County, Kern/inyo/Mono Consortium, City of Long Beach, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, Orange County Consortium, Riverside County, San Bernardino City, San Bernardino County, San Diego Consortium, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Ana City, Santa Barbara County, SELACO Southeast Los Angeles Consortium, South Bay Consortium, Ventura County, Verdugo Consortium.

Southeast Los Angeles Consortium, South Bay Consortium, Ventura County, Verdugo Consortium.

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration has recently implemented the Dislocated Worker Program on a local level. The Dislocated Worker Program is a national public outreach program. PWBA's mission is to form a Federal-State-Local partnership to educate employee benefit plan participants who are facing job loss and associated benefit loss in understanding their rights under ERISA and how their employment status may affect their pension and health benefits. The booklet "Pension and Health Care Coverage...Questions and Answers for Dislocated Workers," is available for distribution, and a copy is attached to this JRB. Other publications are available through PWBA's toll free publication hotline at 800-998-7542 or by visiting the PWBA Internet site at <http://www.dol.gov/dol/pwba>.

Policy Guidance: SDAs/SSGs are encouraged to include PWBA staff in Rapid Response where pension and continuing health care issues are likely to be of interest to workers facing dislocation. To include PWBA staff, SDAs/SSGs should contact the Los Angeles or San Francisco office of the PWBA, as appropriate. Contact information for these PWBA Regional Offices is as follows:

Ms. Saswati Paul
Dislocated Worker Program Coordinator
United States Department of Labor
Pension and Welfare Benefits
Administration
71 Stevenson Street, Suite 915
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 975-4600

Ms. Crisanta Johnson
Associate Regional Director
Pension and Welfare Benefits
Administration
Los Angeles Regional Office
790 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 583-7862

SDAs/SSGs are also requested obtain and distribute appropriate PWBA materials during Rapid Responses in which PWBA staff do not participate.

Action Requested. States, SDAs, and SSAs are requested to ensure that the information contained in this issuance is provided to all staff responsible for Rapid Response.

Inquiries. Inquiries about the role of PWBA in Rapid Response should be directed to David Lowe at (415) 975-4639.

Attachment (*Pension and Health Care Coverage...Questions and Answers for Dislocated Workers*)